

REMARKS

Within the Office Action mailed July 06, 2006, Applicants' election of Group II (claims 17-23) in response to the previous restriction requirement was acknowledged. The Abstract was objected to for use of the phraseology "means." Claims 17-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph. Claims 17-18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,797,719 to James et al. (James). Claims 17-18 and 22-23 were rejected as being anticipated under section 102(b) by United States Patent 5,259,731 to Dhindsa et al. (Dhindsa).

In this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 17 and 20, and cancel claims 1-16, 19 and 24-28. Applicants do not add, amend, or cancel any other claim. Accordingly, claims 17-18 and 20-23 will remain pending in the application upon entry of this Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Within the Office Action, claims 19-21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended claim 17 to recite all the limitations of claim 19, and have canceled claim 19. The remaining claims 18 and 20-23 are all dependent directly or indirectly upon the amended claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, including claims 17-18 and 20-23 are not anticipated or otherwise invalidated by any of the cited references, and further, are not indefinite. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under sections 112 and 102(b).

Moreover, Applicants have amended the Abstract to reflect the state of the claims and to remove the term “means.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, including claims 17-18 and 20-23 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 7-21-06

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Date: 7/21/06

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